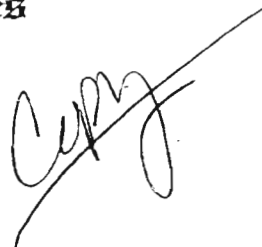


Congress of the United States**Washington, DC 20515****November 10, 2005**

The President
The White House
Washington DC 20500

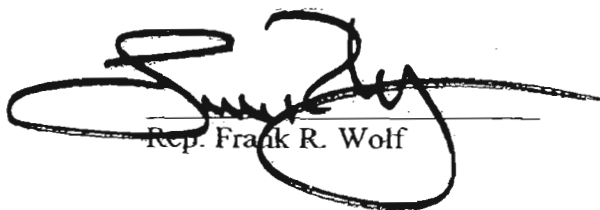
Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to appoint an independent panel—to look forward not back—to act as “fresh eyes on the target” and perform a comprehensive review assessing what is going right and what can be improved upon in Iraq. The panel, which should be comprised of men and women who are honest, ethical and competent and who love their country more than they love their political party, would also be tasked with communicating to the American people what the ramifications are of failure there.


There are many positive things happening in Iraq—hospitals being built and schools renovated, clean water supplies increasing and electricity reaching more people. Real progress is being made and not just in terms of infrastructure improvements. After years of Saddam's dictatorial rule, a group of men and women from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds, with no real experience in representative government, have held an election, drafted and approved a constitution and all under the largely skeptical eye of the global community. But ultimately security is still the number one problem facing Iraq as is evidenced by persistent news reports to that effect. These security concerns limit where reporters can safely go, leaving them with little option but to focus on the bloodshed and bombings, when in truth that does not reflect the reality of the situation. The real story in Iraq is not getting out.

More and more Americans are questioning our role in Iraq. While foreign policy must not fall prey to the latest public opinion polls when America's sons and daughters are in harm's way, bold leadership is required to assure the nation that every effort is being made to protect our troops and realize our goal of a secure and peaceful Iraq. The fresh eyes on the target panel would do just that—reporting not just to the administration or even Congress, but to the American people. It is a commonsense approach which will ultimately serve our country well, better equipping us to be successful in Iraq and in the war on terrorism—a war we cannot afford to lose. We recognize the inherent danger in leaving Iraq prematurely and as Republican members of Congress we care just as deeply as your administration does that we succeed in Iraq.


Time is of the essence, which is why we urge you to move forward in the appointment of a “fresh eyes on the target” panel. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further. Best wishes.


Rep. Frank R. Wolf
Rep. Christopher Shays

The Honorable George W. Bush
November 10, 2005
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Rep. Thaddeus McCotter



Rep. Mark Kennedy



Rep. Bob Inglis



Rep. John Culberson



Rep. Thomas Petri